



October 20, 2009

Dear Chairman Mayes and Honorable Members of the House Energy & Technology Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Clean Water Action's over 200,000 Michigan members to urge you to oppose HB 5334, which would create risky exemptions to the Yard Waste Ban.

There are numerous problems with allowing exemptions to the Yard Waste Ban under the guise of methane-gas energy production. Among them are:

- Yard waste is a benign substance and it is not economical to place yard waste in a landfill with expensive pollution control protections. If yard waste was again allowed to take up space in Michigan's overfilled waste disposal sites, it would create the need for new landfills in the state.
- Yard waste is currently composted-- creating nutrient-filled soil and good Michigan jobs. If the Yard Waste Ban is lifted, the valuable resources and jobs created by recycling and composting yard waste would dwindle.
- The amount of landfill methane that would be created by yard waste, if the ban was lifted, would be insignificant. There are much more efficient ways to capture the methane from yard waste, such as in-vessel composting facilities.

A major priority for Clean Water Action and our membership is to reduce the waste that goes into Michigan's landfills. You can help us do that today by voting against HB 5334 to keep yard waste out of our landfills.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Clean Water Action's membership.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Harley, J.D.

Policy Associate